

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE YOUTH OPPORTUNITY
NETWORK (LYON)
 2000-2001 Grant Amount: **\$7 Million**

Kentuckiana Works
Workforce Investment Board
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Mission and Vision

The program serves youth ages 14-21 who reside in the Enterprise Community and face a myriad of barriers to successful maturation. The program is about the 6,000 young people who live in concentrated pockets of the community plagued by poverty and a host of social ills (high drop-out and teen pregnancy rates, violence and drugs, single-parent households, racial profiling, etc.) And the efforts to identify the barriers and structure processes and activities helping them address those barriers. It is about connecting or re-connecting youth.

Program Overview

The program aims to serve youth within the thirteen neighborhoods that comprise the Enterprise Community. The program relies on four principles: community development assets, intensive flexible case management and follow-up, youth empowerment, and delivering services in an employability context. The program is a comprehensive approach to engage the community's youth, and grow young citizens who are confident, committed, competent and connected.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- Operation of Spectrum and Lyles Youth Centers. The Spectrum site was the former Male High School that was resurrected by former graduates of the school who formed a business partnership to purchase the property. The old high school houses businesses as well as the youth center, and is a testimony to historic preservation.
- Provision of on-site day care services.
- Provision of transportation to enrolled youth and their families as part of the "Safe Ride" program through the local public transit authority.
- The YMCA takes youth on weekend camping trips to the YMCA's camp in the forest outside the city.

KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Jefferson County School Public Schools:** provider of drop-out prevention, GED, and adult mentoring
- **The Urban League of Louisville:** operator of the two youth centers, and provider of youth services.
- **Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan YMCA:** provider of recreation, sports, and cultural enrichment.
- **Local Transit Authority:** provider of transportation through the "Safe Ride" program